

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5-8 are pending. Claims 5, 6 and 8 are currently amended. Claim 5 is currently amended to remove the indefinite language “possibly further low boilers”, “possibly water”, and “possibly further high boilers”. Both claims 5 and 6 are currently amended to clarify that “the distillation column” referred to is “the first distillation column”. Claim 8 is currently amended to depend from claim 7 instead of claim 5, thereby giving “the reactive distillation column” proper antecedent basis. No new matter has been entered.

With respect to Claim 8, the Office has noted that “the present invention draws to a distillation process, not an extractive distillation process”. However, Applicants point out that Claim 8 refers to “the extractive distillation” of line 2 of Claim 5.

Therefore, the above mentioned amendments and comments obviate the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejections. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and passage of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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